

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

In re: JEFFREY D. MAPES, Debtor.	Case No. 21-40237-169 Chapter 7 Hon. Bonnie L. Clair
In re: DEBORAH A. HENDERSON, Debtor.	Case No. 21-40040-659 Chapter 7 Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States
In re: HAROLD GUIDO, Debtor.	Case No. 20-45516-169 Chapter 7 Hon. Bonnie L. Clair
DANIEL J. CASAMATTA, Acting United States Trustee, Movant v. WILLIAM H. RIDINGS, JR., Respondent.	Hearing Date before Judge Surratt-States in Henderson Case: July 26, 2021 Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: 111 South 10 th Street Courtroom 7 North St. Louis, MO 63102 Hearing Date before Judge Clair in Guido and Mapes Cases: July 27, 2021 Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: 111 South 10 th Street Courtroom 7 South St. Louis, MO 63102

**JOINT MOTION FOR SCHEDULING ORDER
ON UNITED STATES TRUSTEE'S MOTIONS**

Movant, Daniel J. Casamatta, the Acting United States Trustee (“UST”), and attorney William H. Ridings, Jr. (“Ridings” or “Counsel”), each by and through undersigned counsel, submit the following joint motion seeking a scheduling order relating to the motions filed by the UST against Ridings in each of the above-captioned chapter 7 cases (the “UST Motions”).¹

Consistent with the Court’s guidance, the parties seek an order approving the parties’ agreed schedule of events and scheduling an evidentiary hearing. A proposed order is included herewith as Exhibit “A.”

The parties respectfully and jointly suggest the following schedule of events to culminate in an evidentiary hearing:

1. Ridings Intended Proof on Reasonableness. By **Wednesday, August 11, 2021**, Ridings shall provide to counsel to the UST a summary of the intended proof of reasonableness of his fees in these related cases. The UST may, thereafter, seek an examination of Ridings on this topic at the discretion of the UST.

2. General Discovery. Other than the items described in paragraphs 1 and 2, the parties do not anticipate the need for discovery in these matters. Nevertheless, any discovery shall be completed by September 1, 2021.

¹ The UST Motions consist of the “United States Trustee’s Motion for Examination of the Fees of Debtor’s Attorney Pursuant to Local Rule 2093 (C)(3) of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, 11 U.S.C. § 329, and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2017,” filed in the Mapes case as docket entry (“DE”) 17; the “United States Trustee’s Motion for Examination of Debtor’s Attorney’s Fees and Fee Agreements With Debtor Pursuant to Local Rule 2093 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, 11 U.S.C. § 329, and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2017,” filed in the Henderson case as DE 14; and the “United States Trustee’s Motion for Examination of Debtor’s Attorney’s Fees and Fee Agreements with Debtor Pursuant to Local Rule 2093, 11 U.S.C. § 329(b), and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2017,” filed in the Guido case at DE 40.

3. Joint Pretrial Statement. By **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**, the parties shall file a joint pre-trial statement including the following information:

- a. A summary of stipulated facts agreed to be relevant to these proceedings;
- b. A separate summary, if needed, of facts asserted by one or the other of the parties as to which a stipulation has not been reached;
- c. A concise summary from each party of the arguments and legal theories predicated their positions;
- d. A list of exhibits as to which admission is stipulated;
- e. A separate list of exhibits, if needed, of exhibits proposed to be admitted by one or the other party as to which admission is not stipulated;
- f. A list of witnesses that each party may call with a concise summary of the nature and relevance of their anticipated testimony; and,
- g. If applicable, any agreements between the parties as to the agreed scope of any ruling that the Court may render in these matters (subject, as applicable, to the Court's independent discretion in any such matters).

4. Simultaneous, Supplemental Pre-Trial Briefs. By **Friday, September 17, 2021**, each party may, as they deem necessary, file a supplemental brief of points and authorities on the issues to be determined by the Court.

5. Standard Pre-Trial Procedures. The parties agree that standard pre-trial procedures under Local Rule 7016(A) concerning the exchange and delivery of exhibits shall apply.

6. Trial. The parties are prepared to try these matters in an in-person evidentiary hearing that the parties estimate can be completed in one day or less, on or after **Monday**,

September 27, 2021, with the following excepted dates as to which one or more of the attorneys or parties is unavailable:

- a. October 11-15, 2021; and,
- b. October 20-21, 2021.

7. Ridings affirmatively requests and the UST does not oppose a joint hearing of the matters pursuant to Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 7042 and 9014(c).

8. Applicability and Scope of Anticipated Order. The parties continue to discuss a consensual resolution about the applicability and scope of any order or decision that may result from this matter, acknowledging the Court's independent discretion in these matters. Nonetheless, at this time, the parties also request the Court's guidance as to debtors' counsels' and FSF's practice of separating all necessary legal services into multiple agreements in light of Local Rule 2093(C)(3) and the scope and application of a future order on FSF cases filed in this district prior to, during, or after this litigation.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 23rd day of July, 2021,

FOR RIDINGS:

/s/ William H. Ridings, Jr.

William H. Ridings, Jr.
Ridings Law Firm
2510 South Brentwood Boulevard, Suite 205
St. Louis, Missouri 63144
Telephone: (314) 968-1313
Ridingslaw2010@yahoo.com

/s/ Daniel E. Garrison

Daniel E. Garrison, AZ Bar 021495
Admission *pro hac vice* pending
Protego Law, PLLC
1805 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. 100
Tempe, AZ 85281
Tel: (480) 504-6840
dan@protegolaw.com

FOR DANIEL J. CASAMATTA,
Acting United States Trustee

/s/ Carole J. Ryczek

Carole J. Ryczek
Trial Attorney
Office of the United States Trustee
Bar No. 6195873IL
111 S. 10th St., Ste. 6.353
St. Louis, MO 63102
Tel: (314) 539-2982
Fax: (314) 539-2990
carole.ryczek@usdoj.gov

/s/ Sirena T. Wilson

Sirena T. Wilson
Trial Attorney
Office of the United States Trustee
Bar No. LSBA 34363MO
111 S. 10th St., Ste. 6.353
St. Louis, MO 63102
Tel: (202) 503-7937
sirena.wilson@usdoj.gov

/s/ Joe Schlotzhauer

Joe Schlotzhauer
Trial Attorney
Office of the United States Trustee
Bar No. 62138MO
111 S. 10th St., Ste. 6.353
St. Louis, MO 63102
Tel: (202) 280-9375
joseph.schlotzhauer@usdoj.gov